



Read to Me News

From Your Library & Idaho's Read to Me Program

Building Vocabulary

Research shows that children who have larger vocabularies are better readers. Knowing many words helps children recognize & understand written words.

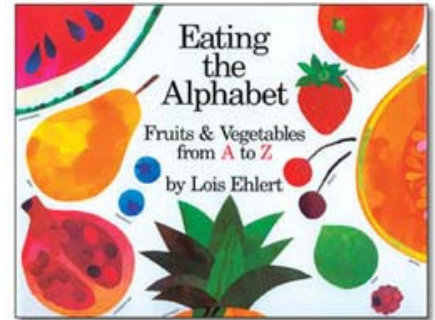
To help develop a strong vocabulary:

- Talk to your child, a lot! Research shows that parents who talk to their children more often have children with larger vocabularies, and those children score higher on IQ tests.
- Talk to your child about what is going on around you. Talk about how things work, feelings and ideas. Listen when your child talks to you.
- Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you.
- Read to your child every day. Children's books have more rare words than the every day conversations people have. Talk about the stories and the pictures in books.
- Learn together by reading nonfiction books. Help your child pick out books about things he or she is interested in.
- When your child talks to you, add more detail to what she says. Expand conversations and ask questions.

Parents who talk to their children throughout the day are giving them a gift. The language they learn will help them enjoy and understand the world around them and help prepare them to become lifelong learners.

Book of the Month

Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables from A to Z, by Lois Ehlert



In brilliant watercolor collages, Lois Ehlert takes young children on an alphabetical tour of the world of fruits and vegetables, from apricot and artichoke to yam and zucchini.

Lois Ehlert is the talented author and Caldecott Honor illustrator of many great books for young children. These are some more books by her that you and your child may enjoy:

Leaf Man

Planting a Rainbow

Waiting for Wings

Hands

Snowballs

Feathers for Lunch

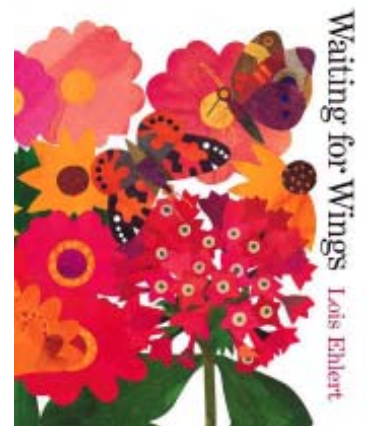
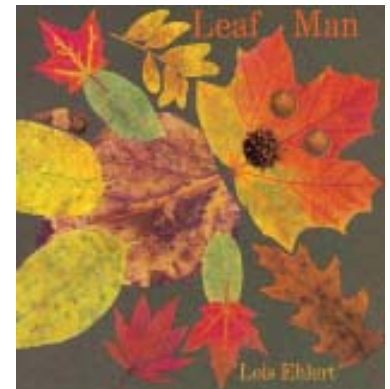
Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On

Growing Vegetable Soup

In My World

Top Cat

Circus



More Fun with *Eating the Alphabet*

When visiting a grocery store talk about the food you see. Name items, read labels, and involve your children in finding things. Let your child pick out two fruits or vegetables for the family to eat. Children are more likely eat foods they help select or prepare.

Plant a vegetable garden with your child this spring. Even if it's just a small container garden with a few vegetables - radishes or a little lettuce - your child will enjoy watching something grow that he or she helped plant!

Play the "I'm so Hungry" car game. To start, the first player says "I'm so hungry, I could eat an apple" (or "alligator" or "anthill"). Then the second player adds an item starting with the letter b: "I'm so hungry I could eat an apple and a bathtub." Continue with all the letters of the alphabet!

Potato Block Printing: Cut shapes into potato halves (make them raised). Dip in paint and press onto paper. You can also cut apples in half, dip cut side in paint, and make prints.

Root a Sweet Potato: To root a sweet potato in water, push toothpicks halfway into the potato. Then place the potato in a glass of water with the toothpicks resting on the top rim. Make sure the end of the potato is in the water and that it has adequate light. Maintain the water level so the bottom of the potato is always immersed. In a few weeks roots will grow out of the sides and bottom of the potato, and leaves will grow out of the top. The plant can be left in the water or replanted in soil. This activity provides an opportunity to observe root growth.

More things to talk about: Talk about foods made from fruits and vegetables (i.e. apples are used in applesauce, apple pie, apple-butter). Discuss which vegetables grow underground and which ones grow above ground. Discuss what fruits and vegetables come to us from other countries or other states. Talk about how they are transported to the store.

Song to Share

Vegetables - author unknown
(tune: *Mary had a Little Lamb*)



We are pumpkins, big and round,
Big and round, big and round.
We are pumpkins, big and round,
Laying on the ground.

We are string beans green and fine.....
growing on a vine.

We are onions round and white....
we make soup taste just right.

We are carrots, orange and long...
help us sing the song.

We are cabbage green or red....
see our funny head.

We are corn stalks tall and straight...
don't we just taste great!

Fingerplays of the Month

Five Plump Peas

Five plump peas in a peapod pressed.
(press two fists together)

One grew, two grew, so did all the rest!
(fingers slowly pop up from fist)

They grew and they grew and did not stop.
(slowly move hands apart)

Until one day the pod went pop!
(bring hands together with a big clap)

Bananas are my Favorite Fruit

Bananas are my favorite fruit
(make fist as if holding banana)

I eat one every day (hold up one finger)
I always take one with me

(act as if putting one in pocket)
When I go out to play (wave goodbye)

It gives me lots of energy (make muscle)
To jump around and run

(move arms as if running)
Bananas are my favorite fruit (rub tummy)

To me they're so much fun!
(point to self and smile)